Alexander Butterfiled CIA/Prouty on CBS TV 7/11/75 HW

I was unprepared to tape when this morning's CBS a/m. TV News opened with Dan Schorr interviewing Prouty on the CIA's penetration of the White House and executive agencies. The thrust is that based on his own experiences and earlier contacts with Butterfield through others Prouty believes that as an Air Force Colonel Butterfield was CIA.

Assume this to be true, as is easily possible.

Why did Prouty wait until now for this with all his writing and his monthly column in which he has poured such crap into type?

There was ample reason to suspect Bitterfield served a master other than Nixon when he disclosed the tapes. Jenifer and Jim White had and recorded their suspicions. My own contemporaneous notes reflect the strange manner of the whole thing and of Butterfield's stypical behavior when he made this disclosure. Not even calling the WH when he could and should to either ask if executive privelege would be invoked or to report what he was about to do.

Why did Prouty wait until now for his disclosure?

Again, what is the untold story of the tapes?

My notes show that this disclosure immediately served as the basis for the end of any and all real investigation. Evenone, including press anf committeees, concentreated on the tapes and to a minor degree on existing documents that could be obtained from files.

There remains a very large untold CIA story in WG.

Here we have Prouty claiming to know Butterfield was a) CIA and b) the man who pulled the plug and yet for almost two years he said nothing, with books, all those appearances and a monthly magazine column?

He claims to have known while he was still with the government that both Hunt and Bennett were CIA, to have been in contact with them on this one project and never to have said a word until now.

What a scoop he'd have had!

How easily he could have added to it.

With some work I'd put together proof that the Mullen Agency and its people were CIA long before any disclosure. What could Prouty not have done with this head start!

(Bennettwas covert. I doubt anyone would have sent Prouty to him with the understanding that he was CIA. And there was no need for this. His willingness to be of help would have been enough and this willingness would not have been proof he was CIA.) Ditto for Hunt.)

With time this could be added to. The immediate ~~question~~ purpose is to make a note and again to ask the question whose interest Prouty might be serving? I have long felt that he was the military's answer to the CIA.

In this case, when all the other agencies are escaping the attention they require, for the CIA to get a disproportionate amount of attention, almost total attention, is to protect the others and to scapegoat it.

This scapegoating has been clear to me for some time. Recently I made a comment on it to CIA general counsel Warner in a letter and earlier to Jim Lesar, when I was considering writing Phillips and his Association of Former Intelligence Agents.

Aside from the self-protection the kind of operation represents for the others there is a factor that ought not be forgotten: good or bad the CIA provides a check on the military and, under Nixon, the military had taken greater control over the entire intelligence apparatus. (See Graham file, etc.)